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6 / 1 Govt of Agriculture

(1952) Department.

No. SERIES.

G.O. No. 892

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Dated 31.5.1952

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Notional Tree Planting (Vana Mahotsava) - Celebrations in the first week of July 1952 - Instructions issued

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
ABSTRACT.

AGRICULTURE - National Tree Planting (Vana Mahotsava)- Celebrations in the first week of July 1952 - Instructions issued.

Food and Agriculture Department.

G.O.No.892 Dated 31st May 1952.
Read the following:-

G.O.Ms.No.1108, Food and Agriculture, dated 7th June 1950.
G.O.Ms.No.155 , Food and Agriculture, dated 12th August 1950.
G.O.Ms.No.334 , Food and Agriculture, dated 24th February 1951.
Memorandum No.19129 N/52-1, Food and Agriculture, dated 7th April 1952.
Reference from the Board of Revenue, T.No.1420/52-4, dated 30th April 1952.
Memorandum No.19-28-N/52-4, Food and Agriculture, dated 10th May 1952.
From the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Letter No.14-6/52-F, dated 14th April 1952.

ORDER:

A copy of a letter from the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, No.14-6/52-F, dated 14th April 1952, containing suggestions for the celebration of the annual National Tree-Planting Week or Vana Mahotsava Festival during the first week of July 1952 is appended (Appendix I). Detailed instructions for the celebration of this national festival have already been issued by this Government in G.O.No. 1108, Food and Agriculture, dated 7th June 1950, G.O.Ms.No.1554, Food and Agriculture, dated 12th August 1950 and G.O.Ms.No.334, Food and Agriculture, dated 24th February 1951. They will apply mutatis mutandis to the celebrations of this year also. The various suggestions of the Government of India are briefly analysed and tabulated in Appendix II to this Order for facility of reference. The Heads of Departments concerned, the Collectors of districts including the Collector of Madras and the Registrars of Madras, Andhra and Annamalai Universities are requested to implement the suggestions of the Government of India so far as they relate to them. Copies of detailed instructions issued in the matter by the authorities mentioned should be communicated to Government for information as and when they are issued. The Departments of the Secretariat (except Legal) are requested to issue supplemental instructions, wherever necessary, to the Heads of Departments concerned under their control in order to ensure the effective implementation of the various suggestions.

2. Heads of Departments are requested to address the administrative departments concerned as regards any expenditure that may be necessary to carry out the tree-planting programme. Any other points of doubt may be referred to the Commissioner of Food Production who is the Chairman of the State Standing Committee for Tree-Planting. Collectors should ensure co-ordination of the programme of the various departmental officers in their respective districts and also non-official co-operation through the District Food Production Committees or otherwise.

(By Order of etc.)

(Sd.) x x x,
Deputy Secy. To Govt.

To ~~The~~ All Departments of Secretariat.
To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue)
To the Board of Revenue (Food Production)
To the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies).
To ~~the~~ all Heads of Departments.
To all Registrars of Universities in Madras State.
To all Collectors.
To all Rural Welfare Officers
To the Director of Rural Welfare, Madras.
To the Deputy Directors of Rural Welfare, North and South
To the Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras.
To the Secretaries to Provincial congress Committees.
To the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras.
To the Director of Information and Publicity, Madras.
To the Regional Director (Food), Southern Region, Madras.
To the General Officer Commanding, Madras Area, Madras.
Copy to all Members of Standing Committee for Tree-Planting in Madras City.
" " the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, New Delhi.
~~12.~~ " the Director of Agriculture, Madras.
" " Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.

/True copy/

R Murugesan
p.v.56

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office,
Madras.

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p.t.o....3 for Appendix.

APPENDIX.I

Letter from the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madras, dated 14th April 1952, No.14-6/52-F.

I have to invite attention to my Ministry's Nos.F-26-21/50-F., dated May 24, 1950, August 1950, and 26-3/51-F, dated January 23, 1951 on the subject of Vana Mahotsava and the aftercare of trees.

2. We have now the experience of two Vana Mahotsavas, preparations for the celebration of the Third Vana Mahotsava are to be taken in hand now. My appeals to restore the green glory of trees to our sub-scorched land has had, as you know, an enthusiastic and countrywide response. On both the occasions, the number of trees planted, far exceeded the targets I had aimed at. In 1950, about 4 crores of plants were put out against a target of one crore only. Reports received to date indicate that the target for 1951, viz., 3 crores has already been exceeded although the returns from some of the States are not yet available. The survival per cent varies between 25 to 33 and may safely be put at the lower figure.

3. The universal response evoked finds an illustration par excellence in the village Settimadamangala (Mysore) which planted 60,000 trees in 1951 and won the Jawahar shield. In Hyderabad, we had the spectacle of quite a few thousand ladies celebrating Vana Mahotsava lending it colour and fervour reminiscent of religious festivals. Universities and educational institutions played an important role in making the youth tree-minded. The enthusiasm already generated has to be kept up at a high pitch if the target of 30 crores of trees during the next 10 years, fixed under the "Land Transformation Programme" is to be achieved. To restore the physical balance of our land, we need at least 2,000 crores of trees—vide my paper on 'Land Transformation'. The target of 30 crores of trees fixed for the next 10 years is, therefore, a modest one.

4. Our Vana Mahotsava has also attracted considerable attention abroad. Several countries have adopted it. When I attended the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference in Rome, I was agreeably surprised to find that our National Tree Festival had come to be admired by many countries. As you perhaps know that as an inaugurator of this festival, I was asked to take the chair at the inauguration of the National Festival of the trees in Italy, in which a large number of nations took part. India also sponsored a resolution for the institution of the "World" ⊗ new technique for the restoration of the physical balance of the land, by generating spontaneous enthusiasm for trees among the masses and enlisting their support. In the National Forest Policy to be issued shortly, the need for maintaining tree cover finds a specail mention.

5. By far the most serious drawback which we experienced in the past Vana Mahotsavas has not been the lack of will on the part of our people but the lack of plants. This deficiency has to be made good by organising permanent nurseries at the headquarters of tahsils, districts, forest ranges and forest divisions. Forest Departments in the States, therefore, will have to be instructed to establish and manage such nurseries.

⊗ "World Festival of the Trees" which was passed unanimously. In Vanamahotsava, India has given to the world a new

6. In the circulars referred to above, indications as to where and what to plant have already been given. But in making Vana-Mahotsava a success , the youth of the land must be instructed in the knowledge and technique of planting trees. As in other countries, it is necessary that our school children must be initiated in the art of raising popular trees and plants and be made true and prepared by the Ministry to serve as a model for various States. It would also be necessary to circularize educational institutions and universities to form a small group of volunteers which will not only create enthusiasm, but also help in the distribution of seed and plants, and in the dissemination of knowledge of the planting and aftercare of trees. flower minded. A small booklet in Hindi for children is being prepared

7. There is a notion widely held that plants require constant watering. This notion is incorrect and should be dispelled. Most forest species planted during the monsoon ~~xi~~ seldom want any watering. What is required is a little hoeing around the plant, a thorn-fence, and occasional watering during the following summer only.

8. The greatest danger to the new plants are domestic animals, cattle goats and sheep are their most dreadful enemies. A study of the Rajasthan shows that the desert conditions prevail in some parts only because large number of cattle and sheep eat up whatever little vegetation springs up. Unless, therefore, these goats and sheep are prevented from carrying on their depredations, no vegetation can survive, the top-soil will continuously deteriorate and the desert conditions will continue to grow. The experts are of the ~~xxx~~ opinion that species like cassia, ailanthus, Pongamia, and ~~Prosp~~ Prosopis Juliflora, not only lend colour the countryside but require little protection from domestic animals, Advice regarding the choice of species to be planted in a given locality should be obtained from the Forest Department of the State concerned.

9. Last year, I appealed for the planting of fruit trees, particularly the mango tree. It may be pointed out here that fruit trees and particularly their grafted varieties, require watering, constant care and protection, and should only be planted where such facilities are available.

10. In Erope the scale of tree plantations compared to India is small, but people make of it a regular occasion of festivity as was done in Hyderabad last year. I would like the States to keep the Hyderabad model in mind. All the girl schools, the girl guides and women's institutions, organized a big march-past in which women and girls not only from the city, but also from the surrounding villages to took part. They wore grey sylvan clothes. Carrying some emblem or the other of the forest, they marched past in military formations to the accompaniment of music. One school company carried branches of trees in their hands; another had flowers for its symbol; while some companies were accompanied by domestic animals decorated with leaves. I am having a brochure prepared indicating the kind of items which can be adopted for the occasion.

11. I regret to note that during the last two Vana Mahotsavas, my appeal for planting fuel forests and trees along roads has not been given the attention it deserves. During my tours in the scarcity areas, and ~~dur~~ing elections, I had an occasion to go into the interior of several States. I found not only that very little organized attempt had been made to plant ~~the~~ trees on the road sides where none existed before, but nothing whatever was being done to fill the ever widening gaps between road-side trees planted by the British 50 or 60 years ago. If these gaps are not filled in regularly by planting new trees, the avenues will soon disappear altogether. In this connection reference may be made to the practice in European and the American countries, where it is the primary duty

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of the civic authorities to beautify the area under their care by the creation of parks and avenues. In some parts of America there is even a small avenue tax. Unfortunately our civic authorities have not yet awakened to their sense of responsibility in the aesthetic development of their surroundings. I have, therefore, to request you to kindly circularize through Local Self-Government Departments that this matter should be taken up at once.

12. I have repeatedly drawn attention to the need of fuel forests. Unfortunately the District authorities have not yet seriously taken to it in many parts of the country. Fuel forest as you know is intimately connected with the whole programme of food production. Unless the village is supplied with cheap fuel from its own village forest, cowdung will continue to be burnt , the most valuable of our manurial material will continue to be destroyed and it would be impossible to secure additional yield from our soil which is getting progressively exhausted. I would, therefore, request you to direct the district authorities to commence earmarking the waste lands for the creation of fuel and fodder reserves.

13. A quantitative estimate of the results of Vana Mahotsava is essential. Some organization to determine the number of trees planted and survivors requires to be set up. In this connection it is to be remembered that plants apparantly dead often shoot up again at the break of the next monsoon. In some States the village revenue officials have been used for the appraisal of such effort and the example is well worth emulation.

14. In this connection, the story of the village Settimadamangala in Mysore which won the Jawahar shield in 1951 is instructive. All the district officers were most enthusiastic about planting trees. They found out waste lands and devised a scheme which laid down that if any one in the village planted trees, a 'Patta' will be given by the State to the planter giving him the right to their produce, viz., fruit and timber. This generated considerable enthusiasm and about 60,000 trees were planted. It is the sense of ownership which counts in the long run. The example of this village is well worth following in the creation of the fuel reserves and avenues.

15. As usual the week beginning from the first day of July, will be observed as Vana Mahotsava week this year. The States, however, will be free to organize their own planting programme to suit their local conditions as heretofore, but they should not fail to observe the first week of July otherwise the very significance of the National Festival would be lost.

APPENDIX VII.

Serial number and suggestion of the Government of India.	Authority to take action.
1. Deficiency in seeds and seedlings has to be made good by organizing permanent nurseries at the headquarters of tahsils, districts, forest ranges and forest divisions.	The Director of Agriculture, the Chief Conservator of Forests and all Collectors.
2. School children must be initiated in the art of raising popular trees and plants and be made tree and flowerminded. It would also be necessary to circularise educational institutions and universities to form a small group of volunteers which will not only	The Director of Public Instruction and Registrars of Universities.

create enthusiasm, but also help in the distribution of seed and plants and in the dissemination of knowledge of the planting and afercare of trees.	
3. Prevention of cattle menace.	All Collectors and Commissioners of Municipalities.
4. Advice regarding the choice of species to be planted in a given locality.	The Director of Agriculture and the Chief Conservator of Forests.
5. Celebration of Vana Mahotsava by students of girls' schools and members of Womens's institutions on the lines suggested in paragraph 10 of the Government of India's letter (vide Appendix I)	The Director of Public Instructions and the Women Welfare Officer.
6. Planting fuel forests and trees along roads may be taken up.	The Chief Engineer (Highways), Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils.
7. An organization may be set up to determine the number of trees planted and survivors thereof.	The Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) (Orders issued in Memo. No.41929-B/51-3, Food and Agriculture, dated 25th July 1951).
8. Waste lands may be earmarked for creation of fuel and fodder reserves and villagers encouraged to plant trees thereon.	Collectors and Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

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